

Morocco

APB134
104

HAK, SCOWCROFT, LL

(THE HAGUE) -- THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE IN THE HAGUE ISSUED ITS ADVISORY OPINION TODAY ON THE STATUS OF THE NORTHWEST AFRICAN AREA. THE COURT SAID MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA HAD LEGAL TIES WITH THE WESTERN SAHARA AT THE TIME THE TERRITORY WAS COLONIZED BY SPAIN ALMOST 100 YEARS AGO.

THE COURT WAS ASKED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION ON THE STATUS OF THE WESTERN SAHARA, WHICH HAS BEEN UNDER SPANISH RULE SINCE 1884.

ANNOUNCING THE COURT'S FINDINGS, PRESIDENT MANFRED LACHS SAID THE COURT WAS OF THE UNANIMOUS OPINION THAT THE WESTERN SAHARA WAS NOT A TERRITORY WITHOUT A MASTER AT THE TIME OF SPANISH COLONIZATION.

HE SAID THE COURT DECIDED BY 14 VOTES TO TWO THAT THERE WERE LEGAL TIES OF A CERTAIN KIND BETWEEN MOROCCO AND THE WESTERN SAHARA AT THE TIME OF SPANISH COLONIZATION.

THE COURT FURTHER FOUND BY 15 VOTES TO ONE THAT MAURITANIA HAD LEGAL TIES OF A CERTAIN TYPE TO THE WESTERN SAHARA WHEN SPAIN MOVED INTO THE REGION.

08:17AED QPAQYAUT